Thomas at a place called Mill Springs. They were totally defeated, losing twelve guns, besides prisoners, flags, and stores. Their army was broken up, and they evacuated their position with precipitation. The action was a small affair, judging it by the numbers of troops engaged,—some 4000 on each, side,—but it was a complete victory for the Union arms, and gave great encouragement to the Union cause everywhere.

The President and the Secretary of "War, Mr. Stanton, issued a congratulatory order to the officers and men engaged,[1] but for some reason, not capable, in our judgment, of any satisfactory explanation, General Thomas's name was not even mentioned in the order. His friends have always felt aggrieved by this unprovoked slight inflicted on him by the administration of Mr. Lincoln, and with good reason. *

Thomas was one of the ablest officers in the Union army; his loyalty was conspicuous, for he was a Virginian; his courage and capacity were beyond all question; and this battle, which he directed in person and brought to such a triumphant issue, was the first victory of any importance won for the Union arms. He not only deserved the honor of having his name brought to the attention of the public by the Government, but promotion as well. But he

was a man without political affiliations of any kind, and it is probable that the Government thought that

[1] 7 W. R., 102.

[2] Van Home's *Thomas*, 56. "The words attributed to the President:
* He is a Virginian, let him wait,* was the accepted explanation at the time."
See also Piatt and Boynton, 127. We sincerely trust that no such unworthy remark was made by Mr. Lincoln.